Section I:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended):

A method for normalizing two or more encoded text data strings, said encoded text data

strings being expressed as a series of characters and meta data fields, said meta data fields

containing all information regarding higher order control, formatting and display for the

characters, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least two strings for comparison;

determining whether both or all of the strings are in ~~similar or different~~

a same meta normal form;

responsive to determining that said strings are not in ~~different~~ a same meta

normal ~~forms~~ form, converting one or more strings to a selected meta normal form such

that all strings are in ~~similar~~ a same meta normal forms;

comparing said strings to each other on a character-by-character basis

~~irrespective of~~ and ignoring meta data fields in each string during said step of

comparing; and

determining that said strings are equivalent if said step of comparing yields a

match.

Claim 2 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of converting comprises converting

at least one string to Normal Form Meta Decomposed form.

Claim 3 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of converting comprises converting

at least one string to Normal Form Meta Composed form.

Claim 4 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of comparing comprises:

removing from said strings all meta data fields to yield pure strings which are free of glyph and display-related information; and

comparing said pure strings on a character-by-character basis to determine the equivalency of said strings.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

A computer readable medium encoded with software for normalizing two or more text data strings, said text data strings being expressed as a series of characters and meta data fields, said meta data fields containing all information regarding higher order control, formatting and display for the characters, said software causing a computer to perform the following actions:

receive at least two strings for comparison;

determine whether all of the strings are in ~~similar or different~~ a same meta normal form;

responsive to determining that said strings are not in ~~different~~ a same meta normal forms,

convert one or more strings to a selected meta normal form such that all strings are in ~~similar~~ a same meta normal forms;

compare said strings to each other on a character-by-character basis ~~irrespective of and ignoring~~ meta data in each string during said step of comparing; and

determine that said strings are equivalent if said step of comparing yields a match.

Claim 6 (original):

The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said software for converting one or more strings to a similar meta normal form comprises software for converting at least one string to Normal Form Meta Decomposed form.

Claim 7 (original):

The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said software for converting one or more strings to a similar meta normal form comprises software for converting at least one string to Normal Form Meta Composed form.

Claim 8 (original):

The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said software for comparing said strings comprises software for performing the following actions:

removing from said strings all meta data to yield pure strings which are free of glyph and display-related information; and

comparing said pure strings on a character-by-character basis to determine the equivalency of said strings.

Claim 9 (currently amended):

A system for normalizing two or more encoded text data strings, said encoded text data strings being expressed as a series of characters and meta data fields, said meta data fields containing all information regarding higher order control, formatting and display for the characters, said system comprising:

a meta form comparitor for determining whether both or all of the strings are in similar or different a same meta normal form;

a meta form converter adapted to convert one or more strings to a selected meta normal form such that all strings are in similar a same meta normal forms responsive to a determination by said meta form comparitor that said strings are in different a same meta normal forms;

a string content comparitor for comparing said strings to each other on a character-by-character basis irrespective of and ignoring meta data fields in each string; and

an equivalency evaluator for signaling that said strings are equivalent if said string content comparitor indicates a character-by-character match is found.

Claim 10 (original):

> The system as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said meta form converter is adapted to convert a string to Normal Form Meta Decomposed form.

Claim 11 (original):

> The system as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said meta form converter is adapted to convert a string to Normal Form Meta Composed form.

Claim 12 (original):

> The system as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said string content comparitor comprises a meta data field filter for removing from said strings all meta data fields to yield pure strings which are free of glyph and display-related information such that said pure strings may be compared on a character-by-character basis to determine the equivalency of said strings.